

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 104341
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AORG, WFP, FAO, UN

SUBJECT: CANADA, FAO BUDGET, WFP PERSONNEL

REF: (A) STATE 95385 NOTAL, (B) USUN 1118 NOTAL,
(C) STATE 98409 NOTAL

ROME FOR FODAG

1. SUMMARY. CANADIAN EMBASSY MINISTER MCKINNEY CALLED ON
ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES MAY 2 TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED
1978/79 FAO BUDGET AND THE VOGEL APPOINTMENT TO WFP.

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PAGE 02 STATE 104341

THERE WAS ALMOST COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE NEED TO REDUCE
AND RETHINK THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM (TCP),
FUND THE POST-HARVEST FOOD LOSSES PROGRAM (PHL) WITH
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, AND AVOID ALLOWING DIRECTOR-
GENERAL SAOUMA TO CONDITION PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS ON
WHETHER OR NOT WE SUPPORT HIS PROGRAM PROPOSALS. WE
WANT NOW TO MOVE AHEAD QUICKLY ON THE VOGEL APPOINTMENT.

END SUMMARY.

2. MR.MAYNES INDICATED THE U.S. DECISION TO BACK T'E TCP IN 1976 WAS UNDERSTANDABLE GIVEN UNDP'S LIQUIDITY CRISIS AND FAO'S ABSENCE OF CONTINGENCY FUNDS. HOWEVER, IT WAS A MISTAKE WHICH WE FEEL MUST BE RECTIFIED NOW

TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF UNDP AND THE CONCEPT OF CENTRAL FUNDING OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH UNDP. WE WILL BE INFORMING DG SAOUMA THAT IF HE WILL AGREE TO REDEFINE, AND CUT, THE TCP INTO AN EMERGENCY (OR QUICK ACTION) PROGRAM WE WILL: SUPPORT THE OVERALL BUDGET LEVEL, SUPPORT REPROGRAMING THE SAVINGS FROM TCP, AND WORK WITH UNDP TO CONTINUE THE 14 PERCENT OVERHEAD PAYMENTS. MR. MCKINNEY SHOWED INTEREST IN THE U.S. POSITION BUT SAID CANADA CURRENTLY FEELS IT BEST TO CONTINUE TCP AS EXPERIMENTAL, AND THOROUGHLY REVIEW IT NEXT YEAR.

3. BOTH AGREED THAT THE POST-HARVEST FOOD LOSSES PROGRAM SHOULD BE FUNDED VIA VOLUNTARY DONATIONS AND BOTH AGREED THE MONEY IN FAO'S SUSPENSE ACCOUNT SHOULD BE RETURNED TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. THERE WAS MENTION OF USING RE-PROGRAMED TCP MONEY TO FUND A PHL CENTRAL COORDINATING UNIT IN FAO (TO WORK WITH UNDP AND THE IFIS).

4. CANADA, LIKE THE U.S., FEELS SAOUMA WILL TRY TO CONDITION RESOLUTION OF THE VOGEL APPOINTMENT AND OTHER PERSONNEL CHOICES ON SUPPORT FOR HIS BUDGET PROPOSALS. WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THIS IS UN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 104341

ACCEPTABLE.

5. FOR OTTAWA. YOU SHOULD INDICATE WE WELCOME THE CANADIAN VIEWS ON BUDGET MATTERS. WE HAVE SENT A MORE COMPLETE MESSAGE TO MAJOR DONOR CAPITALS ALONG THE LINES OF PARA 2 IN WHICH WE SUGGEST A POSSIBLE STRATEGY FOR THE FAO COUNCIL MEETING IN JUNE. WE HOPE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH CANADA AS THE COUNCIL APPROACHES.

6. ON THE VOGEL MATTER WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH BOTH SYG WALDHEIM AND DG SAOUMA HOW BEST TO MOVE ON THE WFP LEADERSHIP QUESTION. IN GENERAL TERMS WE HAVE ALREADY INFORMED THE DG THAT WE REJECT ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN PERSONNEL AND SUPPORT FOR HIS BUDGET. WE PLAN NOW TO SEEK HIS AGREEMENT AND THAT OF THE SYG ON SEVERAL POSITIONS IN WFP AND FAO. WE BELIEVE THEY WILL CONCUR IN OUR PROPOSALS. WE ALSO WILL PRESS FOR SWIFT MOVEMENT FORWARD ON THE VOGEL APPOINTMENT SO THAT IT CAN BE DISCUSSED AT THIS MAY'S MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD

AID PROGRAMS AND POLICIES.

7. FOR ROME. DG SAOUMA IS ALREADY AWARE OF THE OUTLINE OF OUR THOUGHTS AS A RESULT OF TALKS WITH MR. MAYNES AND MR. HIGGINSON. YOU SHOULD INDICATE TO THE DG THAT WE BELIEVE IT VITAL THAT HE AND THE SYG MOVE NOW TO PUT PERMANENT LEADERSHIP (MR. VOGEL) INTO WFP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. OUR PREVIOUS TALKS WITH THE DG INDICATE

HE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT QUALIFIED AMERICAN CANDIDATES FOR:

(A) FAO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL WHEN ROY JACKSON DEPARTS OFFICE, (B) DIRECTOR OF FAO'S INVESTMENT CENTER, (C) DIVISION CHIEF IN WFP'S PROGRAM MANAGEMENT DIVISION, AND (D) A WOMAN TO BE MADE DEPUTY DIVISION CHIEF IN WFP AT AN EARLY AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY BUT THIS NEEDS TO BE RE-AFFIRMED.

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PAGE 04 STATE 104341

8. FOR NEW YORK. PENDING A POSITIVE SIGNAL FROM ROME YOU SHOULD NOT INITIATE ACTION. SHOULD THE SYG'S OFFICE INQUIRE AS TO OUR STAND, YOU SHOULD INDICATE WE WISHED TO GET DG SAOUMA'S CONCURRENCE ON THE ENTIRE PACKAGE, WHICH WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH THE DG ONLY IN PIECES. ASSUMING SAOUMA WILL AGREE, AND THAT THE SYG ALSO CONCURS IN THE WFP APPOINTMENTS, WE WILL WITHDRAW OUR BID FOR WFP DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POST AND WOULD HOPE THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. VOGEL COULD BE SWIFTLY MOVED FORWARD. (WE ARE OPPOSED TO SEEING A SECOND DEPUTY POST ESTABLISHED.) OUR KEEN INTEREST IS IN SEEING WFP PUT UNDER CAPABLE, PERMANENT LEADERSHIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT IT CAN MOVE FORWARD VIGOROUSLY IN ITS WORK. CHRISTOPHER

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